CELEBRATION OF LIFE

THE MAN ... THE VISIONARY ... THE MINISTRY ...

Dr. Bill J. Forrest

SUNRISE: MARCH 1, 1950 - SUNSET: FEBRUARY 1, 2015

PASTOR AND FOUNDER

FORREST MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN CENTER | FORREST & ASSOCIATES, INC. | FORREST FIRE MINISTRIES, INC.

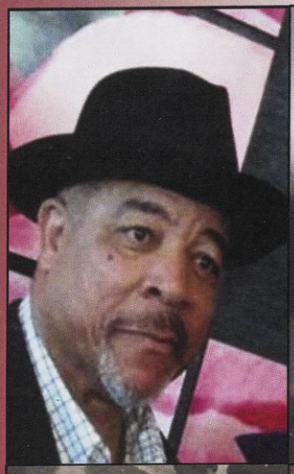
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015

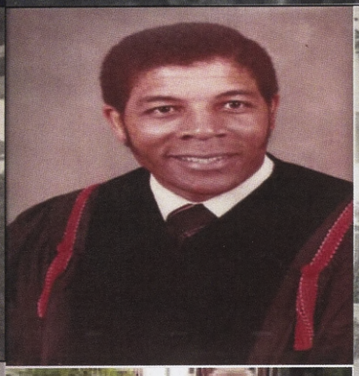
ELEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

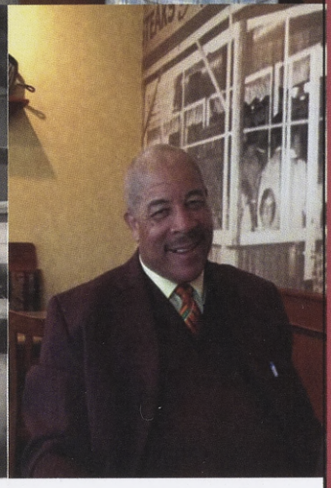
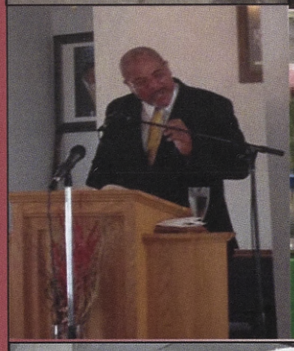
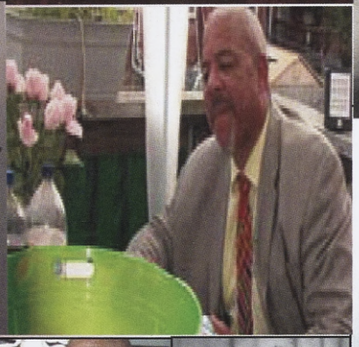
Evangelist Church of God in Christ

1100 Harbor Street, Pittsburg, CA 94565

Dr. B.J. Forrest





Order of Service

Musical Prelude	*"Holy, Holy, Holy"*
Processional	*Presiding Prelates* *Pastors and Ministers* *The Family*
Officiator	*Dr. John McKinney, Ph.D.*
The Invocation	*Pastor Keith Nord* *Simpson Temple Christian Center COGIC, Oakland, CA*
Old Testament Reading	*Elder Arthur Stewart* *Pentecostal Temple COGIC, San Francisco, CA*
New Testament Reading	*Minister Trevor Hamlin* *Christ Is the Answer COGIC, Pittsburg, CA*
Dr. B. J. Forrest Medley	*Pastor Cornell Wheeler* *Last Day Revival Ministries COGIC, Oakland, CA*

CIVIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Federal D. Glover, District V Supervisor

REPRESENTATION FROM FAMILY & FRIENDS

Deborah Johnson, Lawrence Forrest, Pamela Hayes, Larry Williams, Tracy Hall Akhile, Artrice Lawson, Kim Nicholson, Charles Forrest, Jr., Kennesha Forrest-Warren, Pastor Albert "Doc" Williams

Musical Selection	*Corrine Elizabeth Robinson-Forrest Memorial Choir* *Bro. Lawrence Forrest, Director*

REPRESENTATION FROM THE CHURCH

Bro. & Sis. Charles Smith, Deacon Kevin Kelley, District Missionary Audrey M. McLemore

Musical Selection	***Corrine Elizabeth Robinson-Forrest Memorial Choir*** ***Bro. Lawrence Forrest, Director***

REPRESENTATION FROM CALIFORNIA NORTHEAST JURISDICTION

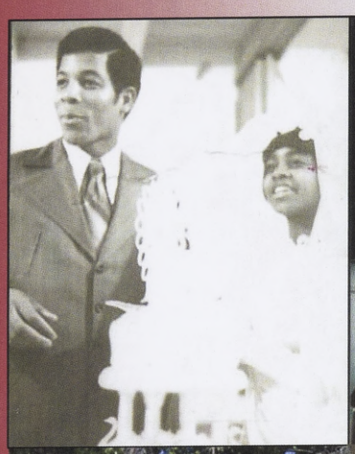
Supervisor of Women	*Mother Dian M. Myler*
Administrative Assistants	*Administrative Assistant Pastor R. Reynolds* *Mount Zion COGIC, Sacramento, CA*
Acknowledgements	*Sister Evangelia Ward-Jackson*
Obituary	*Sister Barbara A. Jones*
Expressions	*Bishop Michael J. Johnson* *California Northeast Jurisdiction Prelate*
Sermonic Solo	*Brother Terry Blinks*
Eulogy	*Pastor Billy G. Dixon, Jr.* *At Thy Word Ministries COGIC, Oakland, CA*

Recessional

"Glory to His Name"

Soul Mate, Husband, Friend

My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (Psalms 76:26)



Obituary

Billy Joe Forrest was born in Martinez, CA to Corrine Elizabeth Robinson-Forrest and Clarence Forrest, Sr. of Tyler, TX, the 8th child of 12 children. He shared many of his primary years with his God Mother, Elzee "Z-Baby" Burden-Merida, in Richmond, CA. In 1956, he and his family relocated to Pittsburg, CA until graduation from Pittsburg High School in 1968. He knew, without a doubt, the challenges of being a youth growing up in a world with many influences, striving for success against all odds.

Pastor and Evangelist B.J. Forrest, then known as "Billy Joe" and "Red" by his friends, was called to the Pentecostal/Holiness persuasion on May 26, 1969, after hearing a stirring street message from an unknown travelling Evangelist at the El Pueblo Housing Project in Pittsburg, CA, notoriously known as "The Dip". Stirred by the subject of the message, ***"How to really be Black and Proud"*** and the steadfastness of the Evangelist, he was immediately convicted by the message and felt an urgent need to go to church. Although he had been born and raised on the pews of the Christian church, there had never been a message that invoked such a burning desire to seek a personal relationship with Christ. He immediately left his friends and walked two miles to a little Pentecostal/Holiness Church of God in Christ located at 80 W. Fifth Street, Pittsburg, CA.

The Lord, through his divine predestination, had sent two young Evangelists, Elder Eugene Farrell and Elder Otis Farrell, who were starting their first night of revival service. On May 26, 1969, Evangelist Eugene Farrell went to the back of the church and asked him if he wanted to accept Jesus Christ and be saved. At the age of 19, Pastor Forrest accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Saviour. Subsequently, he informed his pastor, Superintendent W.D. Duffey II that he had been called to the Gospel ministry and he preached his first message on July 8, 1969.

In 1972, he was licensed to preach the gospel by Pastor W.D. Duffey II, and the late Bishop E.E. Hamilton, prelate of the California Northwest Jurisdiction of the Churches of God in Christ. In 1976, the late Bishop S.R. Martin, prelate of the California Northwest Jurisdiction, ordained him. Pastor Forrest traveled across the United States preaching and conducting revival services throughout California, East Texas and Iowa for over forty (40) years. He shared the pulpit with numerous clergymen including, but not limited to Churches of God in Christ ministries from the country of India. He faithfully and effectively served under the leadership of the late Bishop B.R. Stewart, Bishop L.B. Johnson, Bishop E.E. Hamilton, Bishop W. Wilson, Bishop W.W. Hamilton, Bishop L.C. Patton, Bishop J.C. Jenkins, just to name a few. Dr. B.J. Forrest recently served on the Executive Board of California Northeast Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction under the auspices of Bishop Michael J. Johnson.

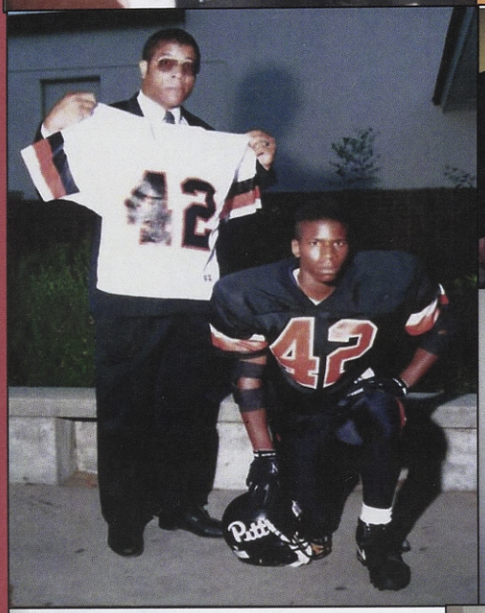
Dr. Forrest married his childhood sweetheart, the lovely and gracious, First Lady Judith A. Forrest on November 27, 1971. This union birthed five children, Billy L. Forrest, Regina D. Forrest-Beck, Gerald A. Forrest, Sr., Kenya J. Forrest, and Raechelle T. Forrest. Dr. and First Lady Forrest were also blessed to become the proud grandparents of 14 grandchildren: Billy III, Xavier, and Ezra Forrest, Gerald Jr., j'Juan, Dajah, Tavion, Kendrah, and Quenton Forrest, Paul Jr. and A'jenae Cooley, Mi-kyon, Ma'kai, and Malik Wiggins.

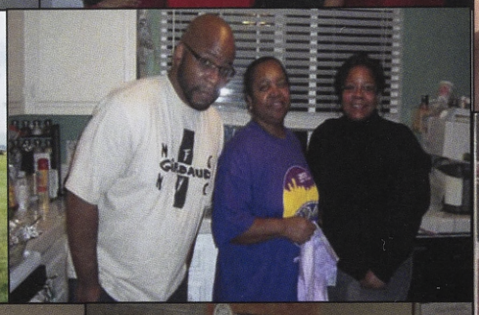
Known as the family historian, Dr. Forrest believed in the power of understanding who and where he came from, and took the initiative in spearheading the Robinson family reunions in Tyler, Tx, often researching and travelling over 2000 miles to bring together hundreds of relatives around the country. Family was his pride and joy, and he believed it was his duty to protect and defend them from injustices by any means necessary. Dr. Forrest was a Bible scholar, and delighted himself in leading seekers in reading the Bible from Genesis to Revelation within a year. This year would have made his third round of the spiritual experience. God gave Dr. Forrest the vision and mandate to feed the hungry, clothe the less fortunate and shelter them because of his love for people and love for God. Everything Dr. Forrest touched was blessed, and by God's grace his legacy and passion will live on for generations to come.

Dr. Forrest is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Judith; devoted children Billy L. (Carmen), Regina D. Beck (Clarence), Gerald A. (Kandace), Kenya J. and Raechelle T., and 14 grandchildren. He is also survived by his brothers Charles Forrest, Sr. and Kenneth Forrest, Sr. (Deborah), sisters Lois Sims, Dorothy Glover (Charles), Sheila Nunn (Danny), Barbara Hall (Gaston), Maurita Forrest and Alice Hilliard. He was preceded in death by his parents, Corrine and Clarence Forrest, George Henry Hilliard II, Elzee and Marcelous Merida; siblings: Clarence Jr., Muriel, Ernestine, Larry Forrest and Saundra Stephens.

He leaves to cherish his love and memories his mother-in-law Vesta Scott, God-mothers Cubie Thompson, Mother Hattie Beatrice Duffey, and Mother Ora McDonald; God-brothers, John McKinney, Elder Clair Rudison, Pastor W.D. Duffey III and Phillip Duffey; God-sisters, Sharon Balington, Phylis Johnson, Darcus Duffey, Patrice Duffey and Diane Duffey; God-son Pastor Billy G. Dixon Jr.; God-daughters La Vonda E. Harts, Toya Young, Toia Levy-Johnson, Evangelia Ward-Jackson and Shawane Jones-Davis.

Forrest Children





Accomplishments

Professional Training:

1989 – **National Head Start Conference**, Washington, D.C.
1989 – **H.U.D. Basic Civil Rights Orientation**, Washington, D.C.
1987 – **E.E.O.C. Investigate Conference**, Dallas, Texas

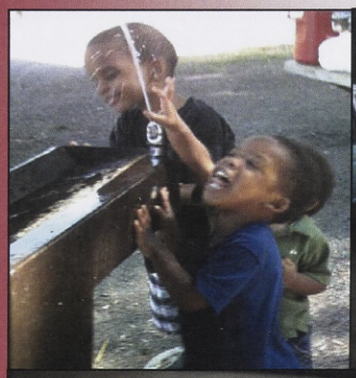
Education:

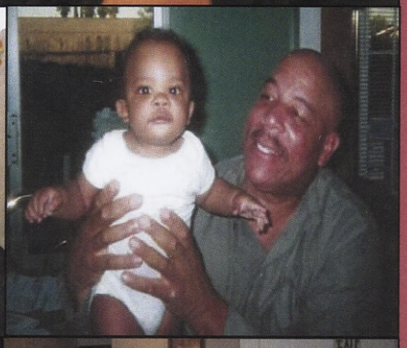
- 2008 – **Appointed to North Carolina College of Theology – Board of Directors** – Dr. J.L. Cook, President, North Carolina College of Theology, Carolina Beach, North Carolina
- 2008 – **Ph.D. in Theology –** North Carolina College of Theology, Carolina Beach, North Carolina – Dr. J.L. Cook, President
- 2004 – **Masters Degree – Theology** – North Carolina College of Theology, Carolina Beach, North Carolina – Dr. J. L. Cook, President
- 1997 – **Organization Development and Management** – U.C. Davis Extension Program, Davis, CA
- 1984-1987 – **Basic Government Personnel, AA/EEO** – U. S. Office of Personnel Management Training Center, San Francisco, CA
- 1983-1984 – **Graduate Program of Public Administration; 2 year Graduate School Program** – California State University-Hayward, Hayward, CA
- 1977-1980 – **B.A. Degree – Social Science (Major) & Employment Studies (Minor)** – California State University, San Francisco, CA
- 1975-1976 – **Social Science Concentration** – Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, CA

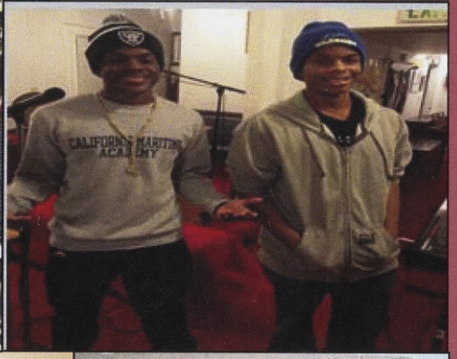
Public Service

Teacher 1999-2002	Pittsburg Unified School District *Pittsburg, CA*
Volunteer Disaster Services 1996-1999	Bay Area Red Cross, *Concord, CA*
Head Start Area Manager 9/1998-7/1999	Contra Costa County Community Services Dept. – Division of Head Start – Concord, CA – Central Contra Costa County and West Contra Costa – *Richmond, CA*
Trustee Board Member 8/1997-11/1997	Pittsburg Unified School District – *Pittsburg, CA*
Head Start Area Manager 10/1996 – 9/1997	Contra Costa County Community Services Dept. Division of Head Start – Brentwood, CA – East Contra Costa County
Program Monitor 5/1993 – 10/1997	Contra Costa County Community Services Dept. Division of Head Start – *Concord, CA*
Equal Opportunity Specialist 10/1989 – 12/1991	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development *San Francisco, CA*
Investigator 8/1987 – 10/1989	U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission *San Francisco, CA/ Oakland, CA*
Employment Development Specialist 7/1986 – 7/1987	U.S. Naval Engineering Command, *San Bruno, CA*
Personnel Management Specialist (Intern) 8/1984 – 7/1986	Western Division Naval Engineering Command *San Bruno, CA*
Substitute Teacher 2/1984 – 8/1984	Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools Office of Education – *Pleasant Hill, CA*
Vice President 1968-1969	Black Student Union, Diablo Valley College, *Pleasant Hill, CA*

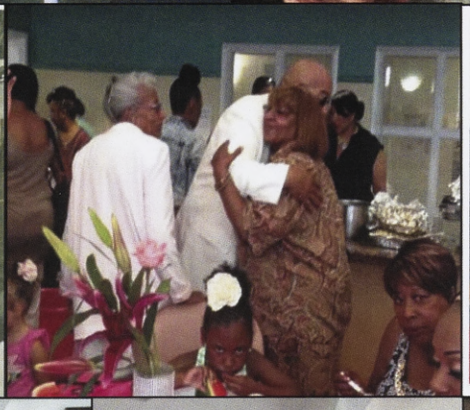
Grandchildren

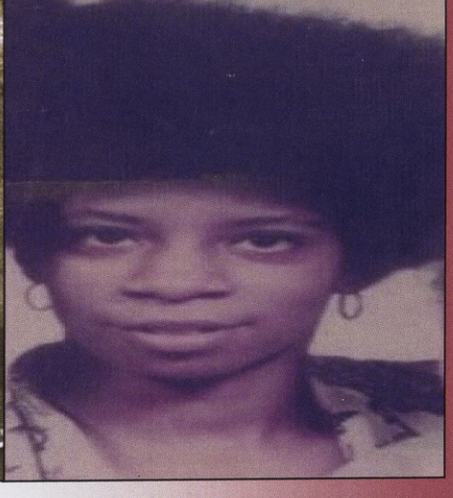






Dr. Forrest's Siblings





Our Founder's History

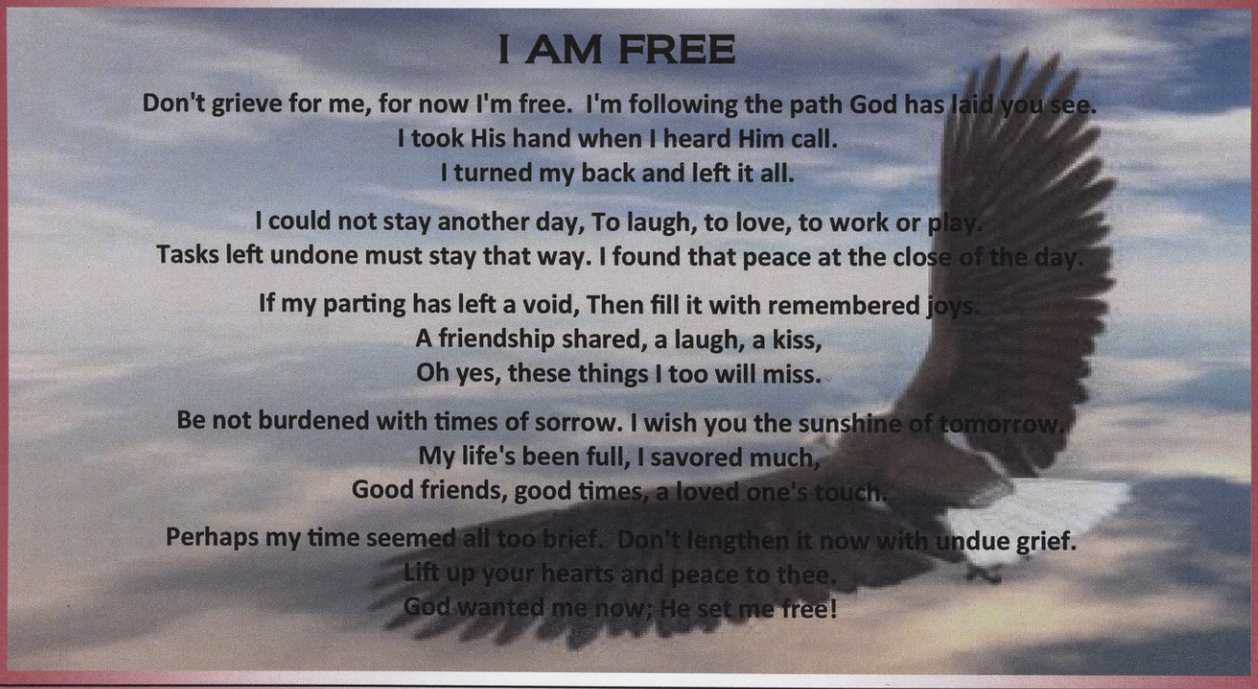
Dr. Forrest served faithfully at Evangelist Community, C.O.G.I.C. for eight years under the leadership of Superintendent W.D. Duffey. Dr. Forrest began his Pastoral Ministry at the age of 28 years old.

Dr. Forrest founded "Forrest Fire Ministries" outreach in 2000 which meets the needs of the people in the Contra Costa, Solano and Alameda Counties. The vision God gave him encouraged by ***Matthew 25:35-36, "for I was hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; Naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye come unto me."***

In 2010, Dr. Forrest founded, "Forrest & Associates, Inc.", a community-based 501(c)(3), public charity. The purpose of this organization is to provide counseling and referrals regarding discrimination in elderly abuse, employment, housing and education. The charity seeks to develop grants and philanthropic donations to provide preschool services to the at-risk families and children, as well as other seekers.

Church Service:

- Pastor of Forrest Memorial Christian Center, Church of God in Christ – Pittsburg, CA (1979-2015)
- Forrest Memorial, Church of God in Christ, Inc., founded in 1979 and chartered in 1984 – Tracy, CA
- Tracy Church of God in Christ – Tracy, CA (1977-1979)
- Assistant Superintendent of the Evangelist District Churches of God in Christ, California Northwest J Jurisdiction
- Served as State General Secretary – California Evangel Jurisdiction Churches of God in Christ
- Past Vice-President of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of East Contra Costa County
- District Superintendent of the Upper Valley and Greater Pittsburg District – Northern California Jurisdiction
- Served faithfully in the Churches of God in Christ under the leadership of Superintendent W.D. Duffey, the late Superintendent W.L. Easter and the late Superintendent
- Finis Jones, Sr., Bishop E.E. Hamilton, Bishop S.R. Martin, Bishop Mathis, Bishop C. Davis, the late Bishop B.R. Stewart, Bishop W. Wilson, the late Bishop L.B. Johnson, the late Bishop L.J. Magathen, Bishop L.C. Patton, Bishop Galbraith, Bishop W.W. Hamilton and Bishop Michael L. Johnson.



I AM FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free. I'm following the path God has laid you see.
I took His hand when I heard Him call.
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day, To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way. I found that peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void, Then fill it with remembered joys.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow. I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief. Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and peace to thee.
God wanted me now; He set me free!

Forrest Memorial Church Family

Active Pall Bearers

Lawrence Forrest
Deacon Kevin Kelly
Shonte Coleman
Vincent Hornbeck
Robby Woods Jr.
Tony Blu

Honorary Pallbearers

Charles Forrest, Jr.
Larry Williams
David Hall
Kenneth Forrest, Sr.
Armon Forrest
Robbie Forrest
Daniel Jones
Sean Forrest
Silas Jones
Eugene Jones Jr.
Armondo Rivera
Brandon Woods
Kenneth A. Forrest Jr.
Peter Forrest
Nicholas Forrest
Michael Rivera
Marlon Forrest
RoShaun Johnson
Charles Smith
Reggie Johnson
LaRonn Harraway

Special Acknowledgements

The Forrest family would like to thank you for your comforting words of expression and genuine acts of kindness in our time of bereavement. Your love, telephone calls, generosity of time, and prayers are deeply appreciated.

A friendly smile, a casual touch, These are the things that mean so much
To know you are with us in our time of sorrow
Sharing our prayers, May God bless you today, and tomorrow
Perfect Peace & Blessings!

The Forrest Family

Internment & Repast

Rolling Hills Funeral Home
& Memorial Park
4100 Hilltop Drive
Richmond, CA 94803

Columbia Park Manor
1780 Chester Drive
Pittsburg, CA 94565

Final arrangements were conducted with dignity and distinction by:
Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home | 3665 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, CA 94609 | 510-654-8558